

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 14, 2009

Deborah Peck
The Atrium
631 US Highway 1, Suite 303
North Palm Beach Florida, 33408

Dear Ms. Peck,

We write to express our concern regarding Courtyard Gardens Rehabilitation Center, LLC's ("Courtyard Gardens") objectionable handling of the Jupiter Care Center ownership transfer. In particular, we are troubled by the impact this will have on the residents' health and well-being, the local economy, and the caregivers.

We understand that the nearly one-hundred caregivers at Jupiter Care Center have experienced a previous ownership transfer. As you know, Jupiter was owned by Beverly Enterprises and sold in 2000 to Salem Villages, which maintained the employment of the workers and assumed the terms of their union contract. Undeniably, the manner in which Courtyard Gardens is handling this latest transfer is highly unusual and disconcerting.

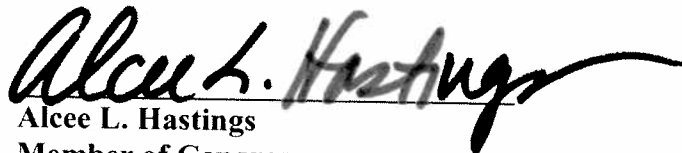
Courtyard Gardens has stated it is opening the job search in order to retain and hire the best people; however, new nursing home operators traditionally retain the existing workforce for a variety of important reasons related to quality of care. This large-scale dismissal will undoubtedly be disruptive to the care of your residents, who are accustomed to being cared for by those whom they know and trust.


In addition to our concerns regarding the disruption of quality, experienced care, we are troubled by the sudden and unnecessary job loss of the nearly one-hundred workers in Palm Beach County and the surrounding areas. We believe that the way in which the employees of the Jupiter Care Center were treated was unacceptable.

Courtyard Gardens has further broken their agreement with Jupiter Care Center to conduct a job fair "exclusive for current employees." In fact, workers' first "notification" came from an article in the *Jupiter Courier* on Sunday, April 26th, which announced a job fair open to the public.

We urge Courtyard Gardens to retain the existing workforce and honor the terms of your existing union contract. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,


Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress


Robert Wexler
Member of Congress

Signees

State Representative Priscilla Taylor
State Representative Mark Pafford

Tony Fransetta, President of the Florida Alliance of Retired Americans
Elna Laun, President, Palm Beach Democratic Club
Bob Bender, South Florida Activist Chorus
Mike Budd, Professor at FAU and Member of Veterans for Peace
RE Hersh, Retired Military, Member of the Truth Project
Kerry Gallagher, Chairwoman of the Board, The Lord's Place
Jill Hanson, Executive Director of El Sol

CC:
Kathryn Schmidt
President and CEO
Workforce Alliance